

HELLCAT

MARVEL 4

CANTWELL • LINS • DÍAZ



Patsy Walker is a former teen celebrity turned super hero with supernatural and psychic powers. During her storied life, she's been an Avenger and private investigator, was married to the Son of Satan, died, went to hell and was resurrected. Having relocated to the West Coast, Patsy is determined to escape the ghosts of her past and claw out a new future as ...

HELLCAT

"SOULMATES"

Patsy's new boyfriend, Spalding Grantham, was brutally murdered. Patsy's memories leading up to the murder are cloudy, and she remains the chief suspect. She launched an investigation along with Rick Sheridan, A.K.A. Sleepwalker. Their search led them to the demon Blackheart, who revealed that before he was killed, Spalding was secretly constructing a supernatural Exile Gate with the ability to permanently banish someone from this plane of existence.

Patsy's demonic ex-husband Daimon is currently powerless, trapped in the form of a plush bunny. Daimon has been encouraging Patsy to unleash her inner darkness--and unbeknownst to Patsy, Daimon was also in league with Spalding before his murder.

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Recently,

WHEN THIS
IS *FINISHED*. WHEN
I'VE *BUILT* THIS FOR
YOU. I WANT TO
SEE.

I WANT
YOU TO SHOW
ME THE *FULL*
AND *TOTAL*
TRUTH.

ARE YOU
SURE, MISTER
GRANTHAM?

WHEN I
SHOWED *PATSY*...
WHEN SHE SAW MY
TRUE FORM...SHE
WENT ALL TO
PIECES.



MY PARENTS
DIED WHEN I WAS
JUST A *CHILD*.



ONE DAY,
WE'RE AT THE *WHARF*.
HAVING CLAM CHOWDER
IN *BREAD BOWLS*. RIDING
THE FERRY. EVERYTHING
WAS *PERFECT*.



THE NEXT
DAY, THEY WERE
GONE. AN *ACCIDENT*.
BLIND CURVE. THE CRASH
WAS...*HORRIFIC*. HOW IS
THAT *POSSIBLE*? HOW
IS THAT *JUST*?

HOW
COULD THAT MUCH
LOVE...SOMETHING
SO *POWERFUL*...JUST
SUDDENLY BE...
NOTHING?

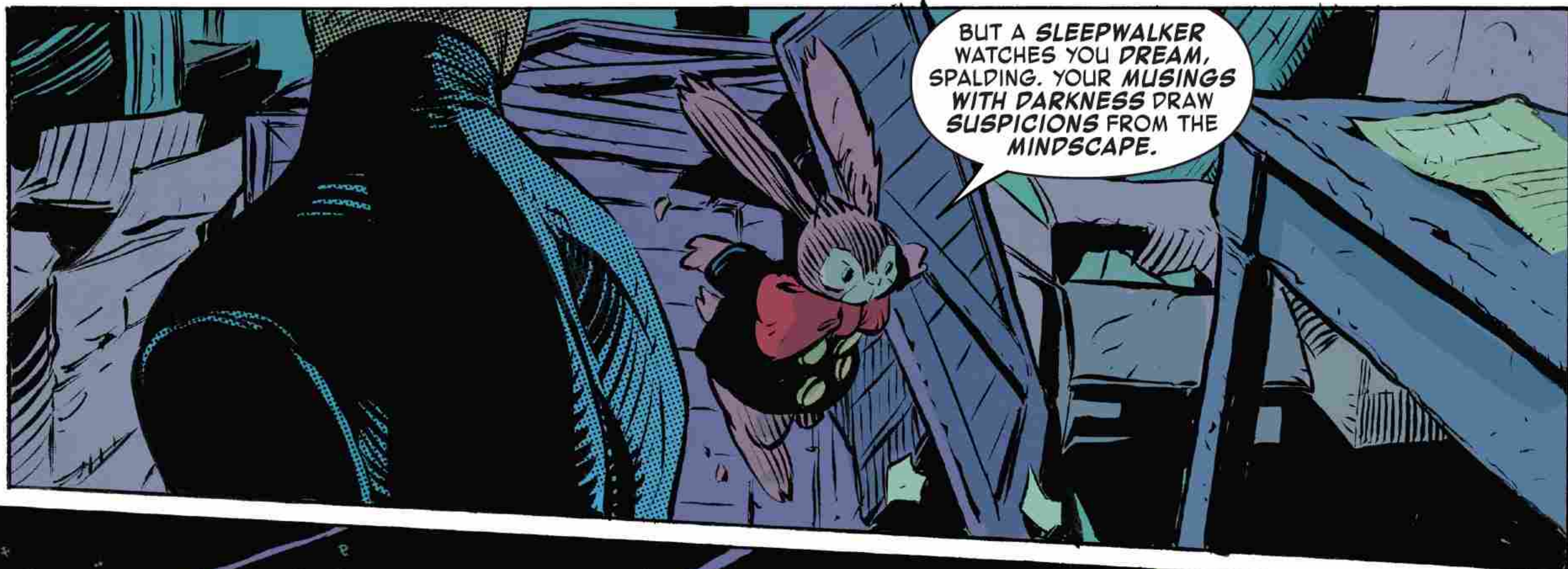


I NEED
TO KNOW WHAT'S
BEYOND THIS *FRAGILE*,
TRANSIENT LIFE. THIS
FLEETING ESSENCE
THAT'S TANTAMOUNT
TO THE *BLINK* OF
AN EYE.

I NEED
TO *SEE*
IT.



VERY
WELL, THEN.



BUT A *SLEEPWALKER* WATCHES YOU *DREAM*, SPALDING. YOUR *MUSINGS* WITH *DARKNESS* DRAW *SUSPICIONS* FROM THE *MINDSCAPE*.



"HIS *EYE*--HIS *IMAGINATOR*--IS HIDDEN IN YOUR HOUSE *BENEATH* THE FLOOR. HE *SPIES* ON YOU WHILE YOU *SLEEP*."



BRING ME THE *EYE*. AND WE WILL USE ITS POWER TO OPEN THIS *DOOR*.



AND THEN I WILL SHOW YOU *ALL THAT LIES* BEYOND THIS *REALM*.

16 Years Old.

I TRIED, CHET, I DID! I SAID IT WAS ME, BUT THEY WOULDN'T LET ME TELL THE TRUTH!

SO THAT'S IT, THEN. YOU TRIED TO BE THE HERO, BUT THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU.



POOR YOU, HUH?

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, CHET? GRAB THE MICROPHONE AT THE NEXT ASSEMBLY?

WRITE A LETTER TO THE SCHOOL BOARD SAYING MY MOM'S A LIAR, BEGGING TO GET KICKED OUT?



YOUR MOM'S NOT THE ONLY LIAR, MAN.



I GUESS NO ONE'LL EVER PRY THOSE GOODY TWO-SHOES OFF YOUR FEET, WILL THEY, PATSY WALKER?



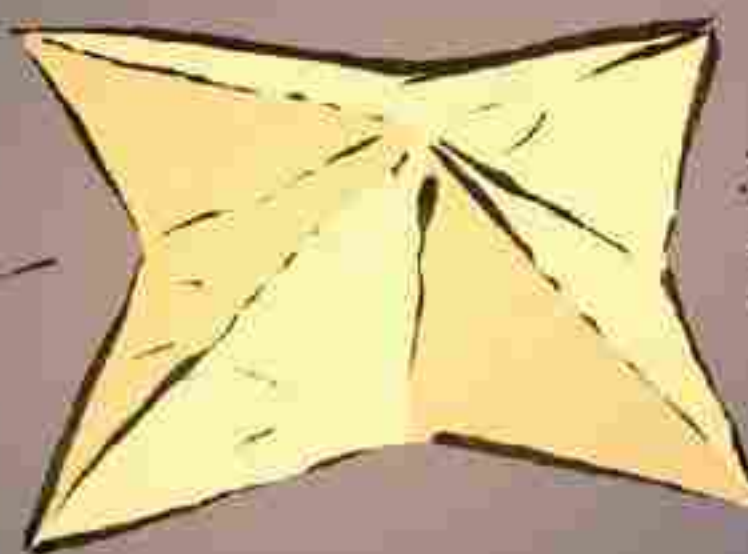
VROOOM

Now.

RICK,
WE NEED TO SEE
WHAT THE *IMAGINATOR*
WITNESSED WHILE PLANTED
IN GRANTHAM'S HOUSE.
IT MAY KNOW WHAT HE'S
DONE TO *PATSY*.

I DON'T
WANT TO *SPY* ON
HER LIKE THIS. IT'S
NOT RIGHT.

IF
HE AFFECTED
HER *MIND*...IF HE
CHANGED HER IN
SOME WAY...



...SOUGHT TO
CONTROL SOMETHING
WITHIN HER WHILE SHE WAS
HELPLESS, THEN WHAT
SPALDING DID WAS
NOT RIGHT.

COULD IT
HAVE SEEN *WHO*
KILLED HIM?

ITS RECORD
IS *INCOMPLETE*.
POCKETS OF *STRANGE*
NOTHING WITHIN IT.
AND IN THE MOMENT OF
SPALDING'S DEATH...
SOMETHING *OVER-*
WHELMED IT.

BECAUSE IT
WAS BEING USED
AS THE *MURDER*
WEAPON.

YES.

LET IT *SHOW*
YOU, RICK. IT IS
IMPORTANT THAT
WE SEE.





OOOOOKAY,
IS THERE A **FAST-
FORWARD BUTTON**
ON THIS THING?

WHAT'S HE
SAYING TO HER?
I CAN'T MAKE
IT OUT...

IT IS AN
INCANTATION.

HE IS
**CASTING A
SPELL.**

16 Years Old.

HEY, BUZZ,
LOOK! A CHEETAH
IN THE WILD!

DON'T
CALL ME
THAT.



WHAT'RE YOU
DOIN' OUT HERE,
CHEETAH? THIS IS
A MAKE-OUT SPOT.
WOULDN'T EXPECT TO
SEE YOU WITHIN
MILES OF THIS
PLACE.



I'M DRINKIN'
BEER. WHASSIT
LOOK LIKE I'M
DOIN'?



OH WOW,
CHEETAH'S A FREE
MAN NOW, SO I GUESS
HE'S CELEBRATING.
A TOAST TO YOU,
PAL!

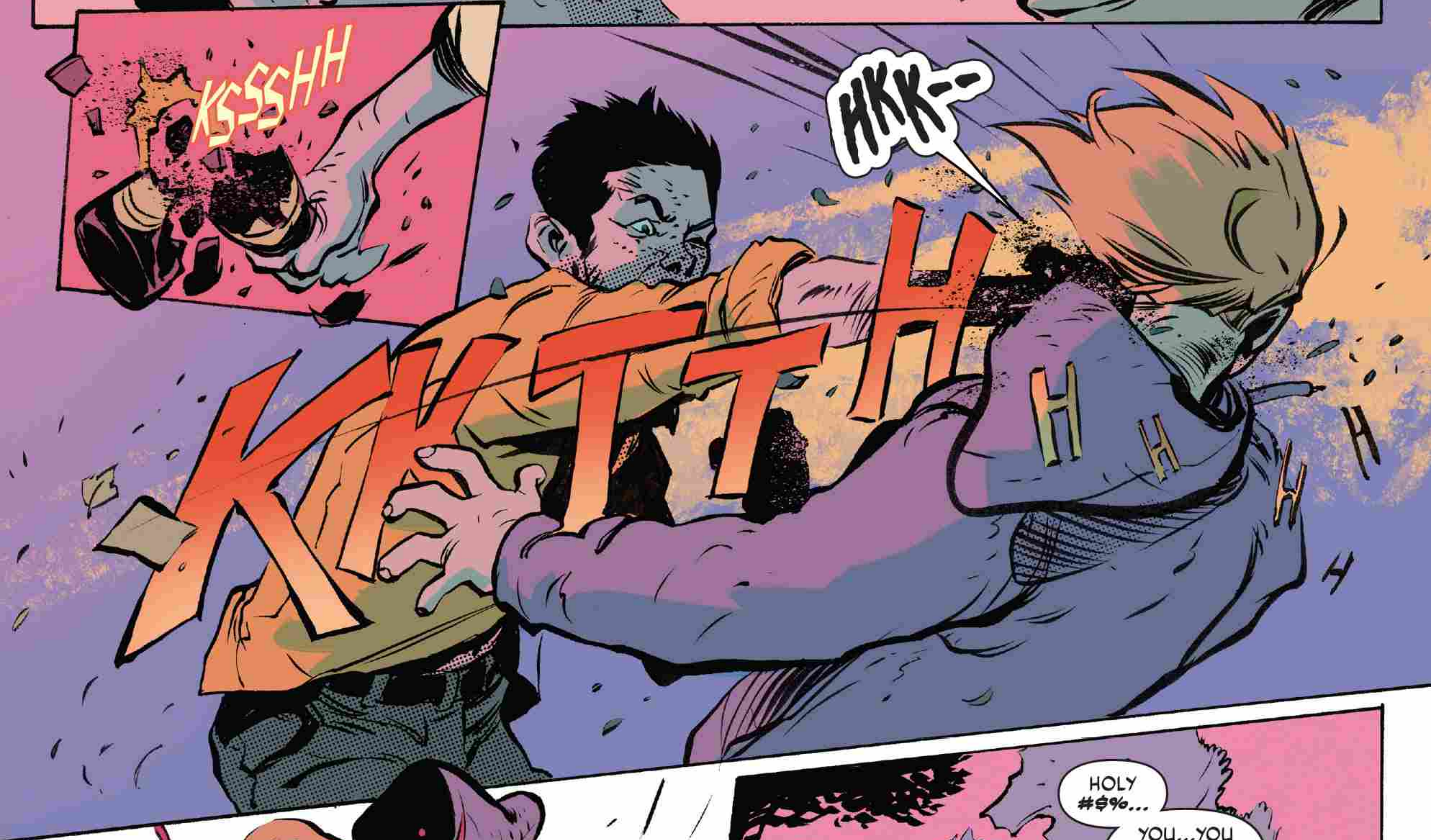


HAHAHA!

SO, WHAT'S
NEXT? NOW THAT
YOU AND CENTERVILLE
HIGH HAVE PARTED
WAYS?

YEAH, TOUGH
BREAK ON THE
EXPULSION,
GEEK.









I DIDN'T WANT TO RUIN YOUR FUN. YOU HAVE SUCH **BAD LUCK** WITH MEN.

GEE, THANKS.

NO, I... I COULD TELL YOU...LOVED HIM.

I'M SORRY I BROUGHT UP CHET.



I'M SORRY I SMASHED YOUR BAY WINDOW.

LOOK, I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW HOW I FELT ABOUT SPALDING... AND I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD'VE BEEN SO **BLIND** TO THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM EITHER.

THAT ANSWER IS LOCKED WITHIN YOUR OWN MIND.



ANOTHER FRIEND OF YOURS?

MORE LIKE HIS... ROOMMATE...THE SLEEPWALKER.

I HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING SPALDING GRANTHAM AT LENGTH FOR SUSPECTED **DREAM CRIMES**. IN MY SURVEILLANCE, I HAVE LEARNED THAT IT WAS HE WHO CAST A **DARK SPELL** ON YOU, HELLCAT, AND MUTED YOUR TELEPATHIC ABILITIES.



YOU PLACED YOUR **IMAGINATOR** IN HIS HOUSE. TO **SPY** ON HIM.

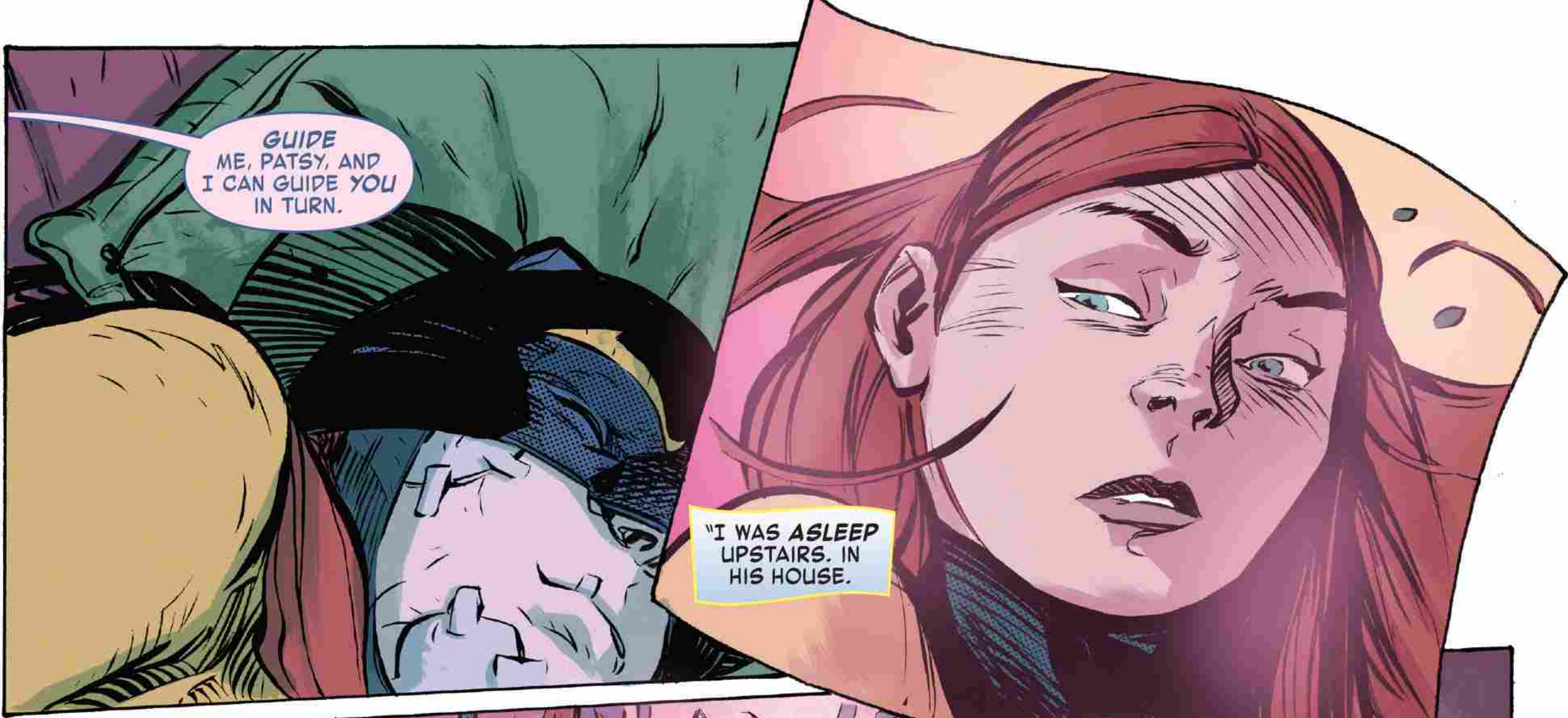
YOUR **MISSING MEMORY** OF HIS MURDER...WHO WAS THERE, WHO ATTACKED YOU... THESE MEMORIES MAY BE **BLOCKED** BECAUSE OF THE **EFFECTS** OF THIS SPELL, BUT PERHAPS ALSO BECAUSE...

...IT SEEMS THERE ARE... **SHADOWED PARTS** OF YOU...PARTS THAT ARE... INVISIBLE TO ME...AND EVEN **INVISIBLE**... TO YOU.



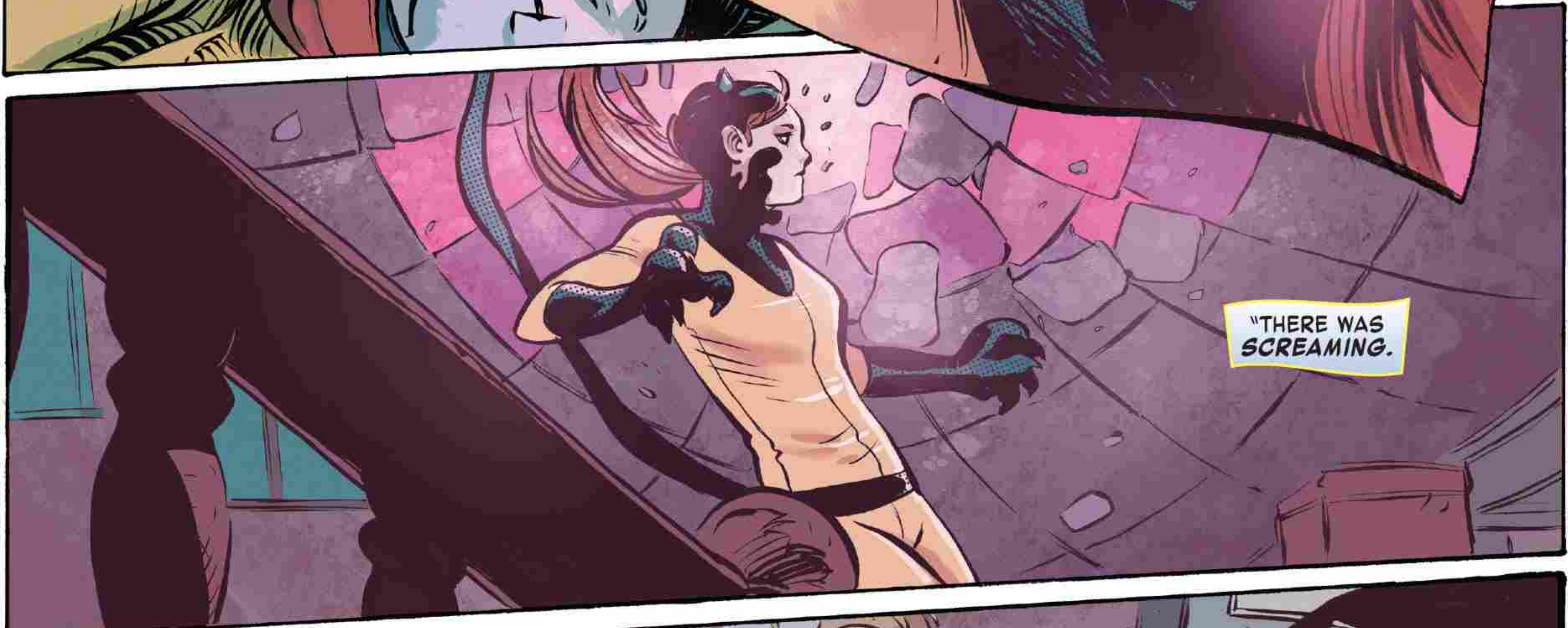
EVEN WITH ALL THE RESOURCES OF THE **MINDSCAPE**, I CANNOT **EXPLAIN** IT, PATSY WALKER... ONLY TO SAY IT IS AS IF YOU ARE **HIDING**... FROM YOURSELF.





GUIDE ME, PATSY, AND I CAN GUIDE YOU IN TURN.

"I WAS ASLEEP UPSTAIRS. IN HIS HOUSE."



"THERE WAS SCREAMING."



"IT WAS HIS SCREAMING."

NO!
NO! STAY AWAY!



"BLACKHEART WAS THERE."

YOU BETRAYED ME, GRANTHAM! YOU WORK FOR HELLSTROM!

AND FOR THAT, YOU'LL PAY!



"I THOUGHT
I WAS AWAKE.



"BUT IN THIS
MOMENT..."

"...I THINK I
DREW FROM MANY
PLACES..."

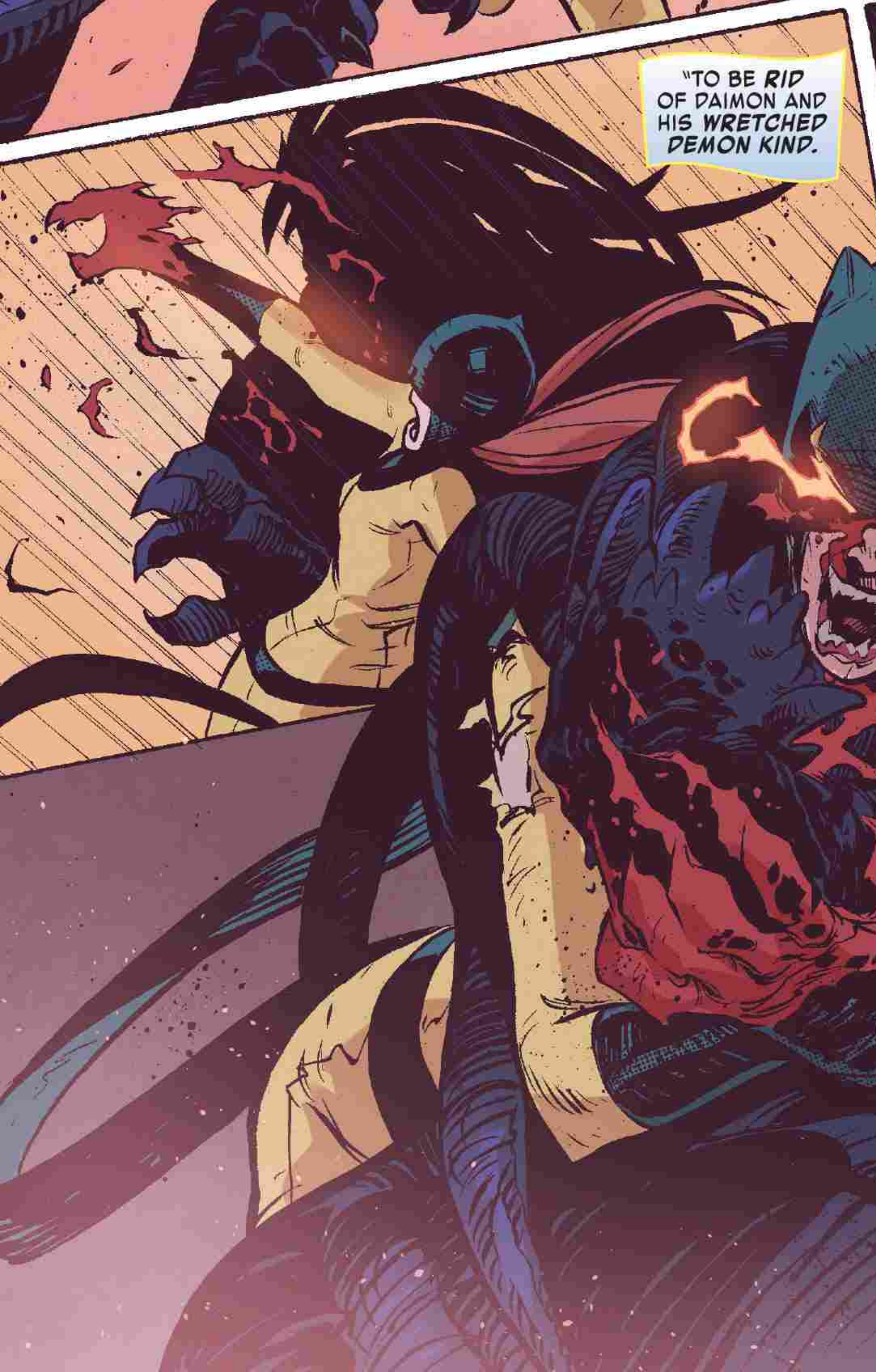


"...DARK
PLACES..."



"...TO
PROTECT
SPALDING.

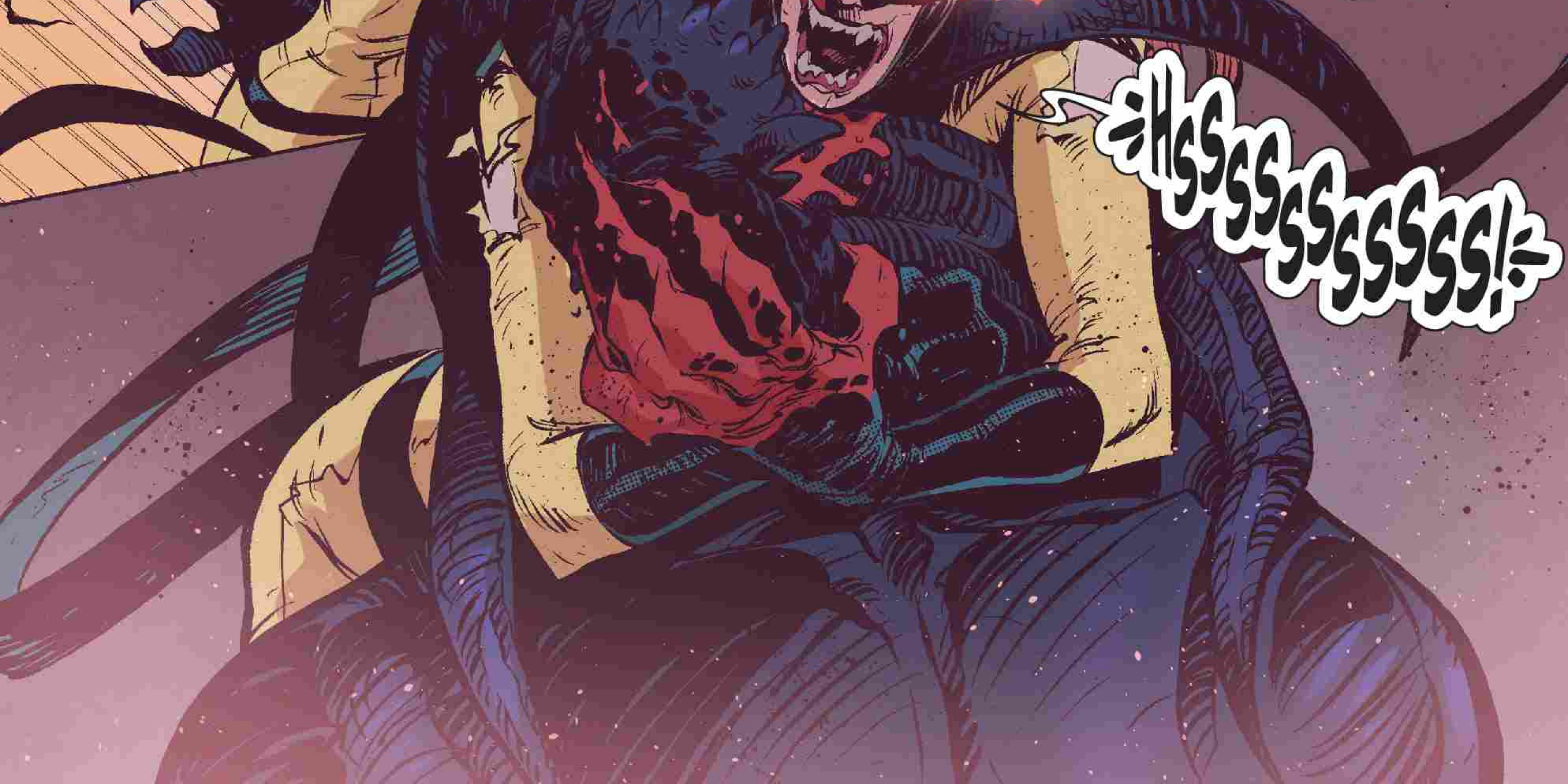
"I WANTED TO KILL
BLACKHEART.



"TO BE RID
OF DAIMON AND
HIS WRETCHED
DEMON KIND.



"AND BECAUSE...
BECAUSE IT WOULD
BRING ME
PLEASURE.



SHHHHHHHHHH!



"WHAT DID YOU DO TO SPALDING?"

"I SAVED HIM."



NO!

"WHAT DID YOU DO TO SPALDING?"



SPALDING, IT'S ME! IT'S OKAY!

I CAN SEE! I CAN SEE!

WHY DID YOU BLOCK MY MIND? WHY DID YOU LIE TO ME?



I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME...WHAT I SOUGHT... UNTIL I COULD SHARE IT WITH YOU, BRING YOU INTO MY WORLD... BUT NOW...



...NOW I SEE! I SEE THE TRUTH!

ABOUT WHAT? WHO? BLACKHEART? PAIMON?

ABOUT YOU...



...ME...?

WHAT DID YOU DO TO SPALDING?





DAIMON!

KAATAAASSTCH

"YOU SON OF THE DEVIL, YOU
ENEMY OF ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FULL OF ALL DECEIT AND VILLAINY..."
--ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 13:10



WHAT ARE
YOU WAITING FOR,
SLEEPWALKER?
ARREST ME.

ON WHAT
CHARGE...?

ASSAULTING
AN OFFICER.



LET HER GO,
YOU SATANIC
FUCK!

IT'S WHAT
SHE WANTS. IT'S
WHAT'S ALWAYS
BEEN.



TO ME
ONCE MORE,
MY HELLCAT.

16 Years Old.

"WHAT TIES US
TOGETHER, PATSY?"

"YOU LOVED ME ONCE.
BUT THEN YOU SAW
MY TRUE FACE."

"YOU SAY IT
PROVE YOU TO
SUICIDE."

"YOU SAY YOU
COULDN'T LIVE
WITH THE HORROR."

"BUT I SAY..."

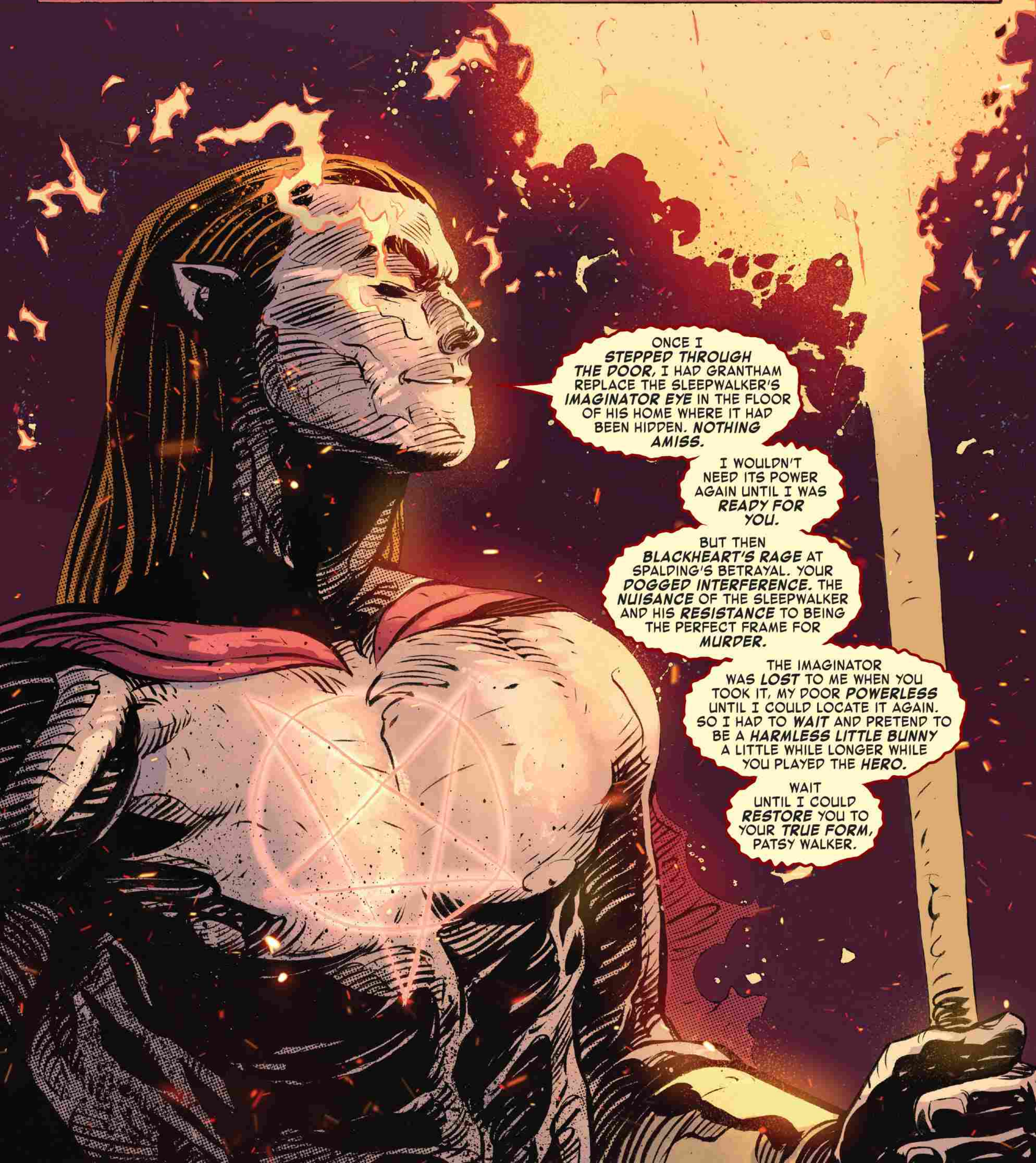
"...YOU COULDN'T
LIVE WITH THE LOVE
YOU FELT FOR THE
HORROR YOU SAW."

"YOU DIED. YOU
WENT TO HELL.
BUT I'LL ASK
YOU AGAIN..."



"...YOU THINK YOU CAN WAKE
UP IN HELL AND JUST
LEAVE? WHAT DO YOU **BRING**
BACK WITH YOU, PATSY?

"WHAT PERHAPS HAS ALWAYS
BEEN THERE? WHAT INSIDE YOU
TIED US TOGETHER, EVEN
BEFORE YOUR FIRST DEATH?"



ONCE I
STEPPED THROUGH
THE DOOR, I HAD GRANTHAM
REPLACE THE SLEEPWALKER'S
IMAGINATOR EYE IN THE FLOOR
OF HIS HOME WHERE IT HAD
BEEN HIDDEN. NOTHING
AMISS.

I WOULDN'T
NEED ITS POWER
AGAIN UNTIL I WAS
READY FOR
YOU.

BUT THEN
BLACKHEART'S RAGE AT
SPALDING'S BETRAYAL. YOUR
DOGGED INTERFERENCE. THE
NUISANCE OF THE SLEEPWALKER
AND HIS **RESISTANCE** TO BEING
THE PERFECT FRAME FOR
MURDER.

THE IMAGINATOR
WAS **LOST** TO ME WHEN YOU
TOOK IT, MY DOOR **POWERLESS**
UNTIL I COULD LOCATE IT AGAIN.
SO I HAD TO **WAIT** AND PRETEND TO
BE A **HARMLESS LITTLE BUNNY**
A LITTLE WHILE LONGER WHILE
YOU PLAYED THE **HERO**.

WAIT
UNTIL I COULD
RESTORE YOU TO
YOUR **TRUE FORM**,
PATSY WALKER.



THAT OF
MY DEMONIC
SOULMATE!

To be concluded!

HELLCAT

Welcome back! We've got plenty of your letters to share so let's dive in!

Dear Marvel,

I must admit, I was not caught up on Cantwell's IRON MAN book before purchasing the first issue of this book. My girlfriend was a fan of the previous HELLCAT run, and I got this as a gift for her. However, having taken a moment to flip through these pages myself, I now realize my error and shall be making use of my Marvel Unlimited subscription to do the background reading.

This is an excellent first issue, intriguing and heartstring-pulling in equal measure. I'm excited to see how the mystery deepens as the story continues!

Make Mine Marvel!

ironfist_ebooks

Thanks to your girlfriend for helping get you hooked on Hellcat! The PATSY WALKER, A.K.A. HELLCAT! series was one of the select comics I could get my now-husband excited to read back in the day, so clearly, Hellcat holds special significant-other power...

Hell yeah, more Hellcat, please! This is a great storyline--I love the (catty) love-hate relationship with Hedy. The brooding ghost mother in the old family house, doting on her beloved daughter (haha!). Her relationship with Tony Stark. Can't wait until she gets her mind-reading ability back again. Anyway, please

keep the series going. And I hope to be able to get a subscription soon.

P.S. The cover art is fantastic! So dark, very cool.

Robin T.

Hedy and Patsy's dynamic is one my favorite things as well, Robin! And I also agree that Pepe and Marte have done amazing work on the main covers. Check out the next page for a look at the cover for issue #5, a special homage to an AVENGERS FOREVER cover first drawn by the legendary Carlos Pacheco.

Patsy was a joy in her second issue of HELLCAT, with all creators firing on all cylinders. I'm enjoying Alex Lins' sketchy, awkward-looking Patsy and his use of anatomical exaggerations for an extra-gangly effect. The close-up of her beaten-up face is remarkable for the way it makes the violence of her life real and takes Patsy out of her beauty-queen stereotype. This is no idealized comic-book female face that's all cheekbones, perfect lips and a clone of every other comic woman, never to be marred by imperfection.

There have been various takes on Patsy's early life, but I like how we are seeing different perspectives on how "good" she was, each incomplete and biased, from her mom, dad, Hedy and herself. I especially love the rare callbacks to her history with her dad, connecting to glimpses seen way back in DEFENDERS. Seeing

Patsy let Chet take the fall for her was a big moment of new insight into her early life and gives us clues about why she was so interested in donning the Cat's costume, possibly more as a source of redemption than simply being the happy-go-lucky Hellcat looking for a good time. I'm also enjoying Damion-as-stuffed-bunny, which makes him funnier and creepier than normal. I had totally forgotten that was him from the Annual so I'm glad you reinforced that in the summary page. I am very much looking forward to the rest of this series; the street-level detective work nicely complements the cosmic-supernatural storyline.

Chris Wildrick

As someone who spends a lot of time writing recaps, I appreciate the appreciation on that point, Chris (who is one of our most devoted letter writers)!

All right, I don't really need to say be sure not to miss the next issue, right? Demon Hellcat, Spalding's murderer revealed at last, new twists, turns and status quos... it's all happening in issue #5!

--Martin

Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM, and be sure to mark your messages "okay to print" for a chance to see them featured in future issues!

NEXT #5



Patsy has been transformed into... **DEMONIC HELLCAT!** With her very humanity at stake, can she overcome the powers of darkness that have been unleashed? All is revealed as both the past and the present collide in a final battle that will determine the rest of Hellcat's future--if she has one!

TER ROCHER

